

July 2005

Issue 1

# NEWSLETTER

Comp Plan/Long-Range Transportation Plan



Comp Plan/LRTP  
**2030**  
UPDATE

## Plan Update Underway

This newsletter will be the first in a series of newsletters that will highlight the community's efforts to update the Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan (CP/LRTP) and extend the planning horizon to 2030. This update continues Lincoln and Lancaster County's long tradition of planning for the future. It also allows the community to take another look at where we are headed and evaluate our progress since 2000. All elements of the current plan will be evaluated as part of this update process.



The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that communities maintain a 20-year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in order to receive federal transportation funds. By 2007, a new plan must be adopted to fulfil this requirement.

The LRTP is based on the future land use plan and Future Service Limit (FSL) as shown in the Comprehensive Plan. The FSL shows the areas to be provided with urban services and utilities – similar to showing a future “city limits.” For the community to have a new transportation plan for the year 2030, a review of the land use plan and FSL is necessary.

The process to update the plan will take about 18 months to complete (see schedule on next page). Informational meetings and public hearings are scheduled throughout the process. The

Planning Department's web site ([lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov); keyword: cplrtpt) will provide a central location to view the latest information on the process of the CP/LRTP update. We hope that you join with the community and share your thoughts on Lincoln and Lancaster County's future.

## Planning Commission Takes First Steps

At its first working session on June 22, the Planning Commission reviewed key demographic and development assumptions that will be used in charting a blueprint for the community's growth to 2030. These assumptions provide the basis for forecasting population, dwelling units, employment, infrastructure needs and designating land use and evaluating transportation impacts.

The Planning Commission reviewed the following five assumptions. At the conclusion of the working session, they retained all assumptions previously developed.

1. County population growth rate -- 1.5% (compounded) annually
2. City/County population split -- 90% within Lincoln and 10% in the balance of Lancaster County
3. Annual employment growth rates
  - A. 2.5% for industrial
  - B. 2.0% for commercial
  - C. 1.5% for the public sector
4. Development density in new City growth areas -- three dwelling units per total acre
5. Development in established areas of Lincoln
  - A. No intensification in established neighborhoods
  - B. Additional residential development in the Downtown and Antelope Valley areas

### 2030 Population Forecasts

Balance of County  
38,624



# Schedule

Task Descriptions		2005								2006											
		M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	Process and Assumption Validation																				
2	Develop three Future Service Scenarios																				
3	Adopt Future Service Limit and Land Use Plan																				
4	Transportation Plan Evaluation																				
5	Plan Review and Planning Commission Adoption																				
6	Final City Council, County Board and MPO Adoption																				

## Process - Planning Commission Meetings

Mark your calendar . . .

### Public Hearings

September 28  
1 p.m.  
County-City Bldg  
Hearing Room  
Future Service  
Limit

October 26  
1 p.m.  
County-City Bldg  
Hearing Room  
Land Use

Public testimony is sought  
at these two meetings.

### Working Sessions

July 20  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
County-City Bldg  
Room 113  
**COMPLETED**

September 14  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
County-City Bldg  
Room 113

November 23  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
County-City Bldg  
Room 113

These three meetings are open to the community;  
however no public testimony will be taken.



## Village and City Check-Ups

Planners from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department are now visiting with the 12 incorporated Village Boards and City Councils in Lancaster County to provide and gather information to incorporate into the 2030 Comp Plan/LRTP Update. Planners visited all the incorporated communities during 2001 as part of the development of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of these meetings is to gather recent information on development and infrastructure issues facing these communities and to seek their participation in the update of the Comp Plan. Check out the CP/LRTP web site in the coming months to view results of the Village and City visits.



# Vision Statement

*At the June 22 meeting, the Planning Commission made the following recommended changes to the Comprehensive Plan Vision. The changes are shown in legislative format.*

The core promise embedded in the Comprehensive Plan is to maintain and enhance the health, safety and welfare of our community during times of change, and to promote our ideals and values as changes occur. The Comprehensive Plan is specific to Lincoln and Lancaster County and it recognizes the factors that make us unique. The Plan therefore is a combination of practicality and vision, and provides guidelines for sustaining the rich mosaic that now characterizes our growing community.

## The One Community Vision

Lincoln and Lancaster County have many different components that are bound together physically, economically, and culturally, all within a prairie ecosystem. The One Community Vision commits us to proactively, but cooperatively, acknowledge the sometimes competing interests and needs of neighborhoods, small towns, and rural areas, our growing cultural diversity, and regional economic forces, as we address the future. This is the fundamental challenge for our Comprehensive Plan: to retain the characteristics of our individual parts while accommodating change within an increasingly interdependent world. As a decision-making tool, the Plan must accomplish both these tasks.

## Quality of Life Assets

Lincoln and Lancaster County's easily accessible museums, rich architecture, historic places, sustainable neighborhoods, diverse and affordable housing opportunities, libraries, performing and visual arts, agricultural landscapes, trails, entertainment and recreational opportunities, and schools, are truly major assets that enhance the quality of life for all residents. Neighborhoods are also one of Lincoln and Lancaster County's great strengths and the conservation of existing and creation of new neighborhoods is fundamental to this plan. In addition we are increasingly a diverse community. However, access to our quality of life assets is impossible without adequate physical and technological infrastructure. The Plan acknowledges this fact, and commits us to use access to quality of life assets as a decision-making criterion.

## Economic Opportunity

Lincoln and Lancaster County must have a sustainable tax base to provide quality services to residents. The Comprehensive Plan recognizes that technological change and global economic forces have a direct impact on local employment and quality of life. For this reason, the Plan seeks to improve physical and technological infrastructure, to maintain a healthy climate for locally owned and operated commerce and trade, to promote the recruitment of new companies, and to provide a variety of training and employment opportunities.

## Environmental Stewardship

Clean air, clean water, parks and open space, mature trees, signature habitats, and prime and productive farmlands are valuable assets. Conservation areas, floodplains, green spaces, and parks define, and help to create linkages between, neighborhoods and surrounding population centers. The Comprehensive Plan takes into consideration the effects of natural phenomena not only upon localized development, but also upon the community as a whole, upon private ownership issues, and upon recreational opportunities. The Plan thus commits Lincoln and Lancaster County to preserve unique and sensitive habitats and endorses creative integration of natural systems into developments.

## Downtown Lincoln—the Heart of our Community

Downtown Lincoln belongs to all residents of Nebraska because “downtown” is synonymous with the University of Nebraska, state government, and the State Capitol building. This state-wide ownership has strong economic implications, and for that reason, as well as the desire to maintain downtown as the “~~heart~~beat” of the community, the Comprehensive Plan will ensure that downtown remains a special place. The plan will seek to preserve vistas and institutions of cultural importance, to reinforce the district as a center of entertainment, and to promote a rich diversity of activities and uses, including housing, education, government, offices and commerce.

## Interaction between the Comprehensive Plan and the Citizens

Although the Comprehensive Plan is intended primarily to guide the physical development of our community, the results of such development are ultimately felt by individuals and their families. The planning process aspires to make this interaction between people and their physical landscape one in which all facets of our community can prosper, not only economically, but also intellectually, aesthetically, and spiritually. The Comprehensive Plan seeks to accommodate and encourage the participation of all citizens of the city and county in the making of public policies to implement the visions of the community. Comprehensive planning is a continuous process, requiring a continuing, equitable, and frequent interaction between the governments and their constituencies.





## Staying Informed and Involved

- Attend public meetings.
- Submit your ideas through email to [plan@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:plan@lincoln.ne.gov).
- Visit the web site at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: cplrtp).
- Fax your ideas to the Planning Department at 441-6377.
- Call the Planning Department at 441-7491.

### Need a Speaker for your Organization?

If your organization has an interest in Lincoln and Lancaster County's Comp Plan/LRTP Update, please contact Duncan Ross at 441-7491 and request a Planner to speak to your group.



Please circulate this newsletter through your organization.

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## Growth Facts 2000-2005

- ▶ County population increased by 10,400 Lincoln by 9,700 (July 2000 to July 2004).
- ▶ Lincoln developed seven square miles.
- ▶ 160 miles of new road lanes were added within Lincoln.
- ▶ 10,200 permits were issued for new homes within Lincoln.
- ▶ Over \$900 million was invested to expand and maintain community facilities and public infrastructure within Lincoln.

